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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

10 October 1975

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Objectives I have outlined for US foreign intelligence during Fiscal Year 1976 are a further extension of guidance given to the Director of Central Intelligence in the Presidential memorandum of 5 November 1971 (and reconfirmed in your letter to me on 9 October 1974) concerning long-term goals for the Intelligence Community. They are again cast into two groups.

The first group, termed "Substantive Intelligence Objectives," stresses and defines the output that I believe you would expect of the Intelligence Community during the year on matters of priority concern to US foreign policy deliberations. They are given greater specificity in more than 70 Key Intelligence Questions developed by the Intelligence Community in coordination with the National Security Council Intelligence Committee (NSCIC). They constitute the driving force of our foreign intelligence effort for this fiscal year.

The second group, termed "Resource Management Objectives," deals with the means for achieving substantive objectives for FY 1976 and my perceptions of what intelligence must be able to achieve in the longer term. They include specific milestones for achievement in all categories of resource management that should be met during the year and will serve as a base measure of community performance. Results of performance will be provided to you in an annual report at the close of the fiscal year. Resource Management Objectives are designed not only as a means to achieve substantive goals, but also to develop and strengthen continually the capabilities and management efficiencies of our entire foreign intelligence apparatus.

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Both groups of Objectives reflect concerns that are amplified separately in my "Perspectives for Intelligence 1976-1981" and my recommendations for the National Foreign Intelligence Program--FY 1976.

I invite your attention to the following features of this year's objectives:

a. The inclusion of Substantive Objective #4 focusing on the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This can become a major problem in the future, so I have selected it for special attention.

b. The inclusion of Resource Management Objective #5 to focus on intelligence requirements mechanisms. The present systems are quite complex and serve a variety of different needs. To some extent, they appear to have become so diverse as to be unnecessarily burdensome. There is no simple panacea to this problem, but I believe it important to focus our attention on it.

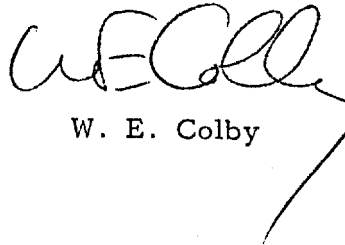
c. Resource Management Objective #6 on the interaction of national and departmental intelligence. Your letter of 9 October 1974 specifically included "tactical intelligence" in your charge to me with respect to overall leadership of the Intelligence Community. In coordination with the Secretary of Defense, we have endeavored to size these activities and come to grips with the inter-relationships, but find it a very complicated field. I am thus asking for a comprehensive review of the overall problem of national/tactical relationships, with the view toward insuring that you are provided the best intelligence from both national and tactical assets; and that our tactical commands are provided the necessary intelligence support from national assets. Technology is imposing certain changes in this regard, and I know there is concern in the combatant commands as to whether their needs relating to battlefield surveillance and combat intelligence support can be adequately served in a timely fashion by intelligence resources under national control. This subject is well worth careful study, and could perhaps result in a redefinition of responsibilities with a better understanding of the technological and organizational aspects of the problem.

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Along with increased focus by all elements of the Community to the achievement of near-term Objectives, broader initiatives continue toward longer range improvement in the responsiveness of intelligence to the nation's need and in the management of intelligence assets and activities. Long-range community-wide plans for improving several of our large collection systems and networks are under development. Assessments of trends on the international scene are being extended well into the future. New and better ways to conduct the business of intelligence are being explored through a more extensive intelligence research and development program. In my annual report to you scheduled for October, I hope you will find our accomplishments during Fiscal Year 1975 to be satisfying.

I submit herewith for your approval the Objectives of the Intelligence Community for Fiscal Year 1976. I will welcome your approval, modification, or discussion of these Objectives.

Respectfully,



W. E. Colby

6 October 1975  
Attachment  
Objectives for FY 1976

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